

## EXCELLENCE IN FORESTRY CITY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

BLOOMINGTON IS ONE OF ONLY EIGHT cities in Minnesota to be awarded the Tree City USA Growth Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The award is given to cities that have made substantial improvements or changes in their forestry programs.

Bloomington was recognized for improving response in the removal of

diseased trees and increasing funding for the City's tree program.

The National Arbor Day Foundation honored Bloomington with a "Tree City USA" designation for the 18th consecutive year.



### CITY'S FIRST ANNUAL TREE SALE

MORE THAN 230 TREES WERE SOLD FOR planting on private residences at the City's first annual tree sale in May. Park Maintenance held the tree sale to help replace some of the more than 900 diseased trees lost on private properties in 2004. Approximately 70 unsold trees were planted at various parks throughout the city.

For more information on diseased trees, contact Acting City Forester Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762.

## BUCKTHORN ACROSS BORDERS COMMUNITY EVENT TO ELIMINATE BUCKTHORN

THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE and the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, in partnership with the City of Bloomington and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, will host the 2005 Buckthorn Across Borders event.

Buckthorn Across Borders will focus on tackling European Buckthorn at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, a City of Bloomington park and land owned by the Department of Natural Resources. European Buckthorn is an invasive, exotic species that grows quickly, choking out beneficial native trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

The goal is to host the largest, most successful buckthorn management event ever held on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Event partners are hoping for more than 500 volunteers to assistance with manual



and chemical treatment of buckthorn on more than 10 acres.

Buckthorn Across Borders will be held on **Saturday, October 8, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Registration and headquarters will be in the parking lot near the HealthPartners building, 8100 34th Ave. S. For more information or to volunteer, call Chris Trosen at 952-858-0729 or Kevin Bigalke at 952-858-0720.

## GO BACK TO SCHOOL GREEN WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING TIPS

STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS CAN all make a difference in reducing waste. Practice the "3 Rs" of waste reduction - reduce, reuse and recycle. Tips include:

- Sort through last year's supplies to see if they can be reused.
- Make a list before you shop for school supplies to limit impulse buying.
- Purchase supplies such as paper made from recycled products.
- Buy refillable pens and rechargeable batteries.
- Use reusable lunch boxes or bags and use reusable containers instead of food storage bags.
- Buy used goods from resale shops.



- Recycle unwanted papers and reuse old folders and binders.

Source: Hennepin County Environmental Services.

*Earth Action Heroes are making a difference in the community. Here are your neighbors in action ...*

May 2005  
To Kerry Stone, Human Services  
You sent three guys from Ziegler. I had to tell you how impressed I was with them. They not only helped my husband take out those rusty screws on the hideaway bed, but they were so gracious and so helpful. Thank you.  
Ruby, resident



Ziegler employees and volunteer coordinators Jeff Eckstrom and Keith Chellsen.

Ziegler Helping Hands volunteers assist residents with Curbside Cleanup.

## EARTH ACTION HEROES HELPING HANDS LIFT THE BURDEN OF OTHERS

"FREE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES" IS THE HEADLINE ON RECRUITMENT SIGNS THAT Keith Chellsen posts on his workplace bulletin boards at Ziegler, a Bloomington-based Caterpillar parts and service company. So far the signs have paid off, not only for Chellsen, but also for the employees who, he says, "step on the volunteer path and never step off."

Three years ago, Chellsen, along with coworker Jeff Eckstrom, were asked by the company's community service program to put together a smaller, more personal volunteer program to benefit Bloomington. New to volunteering, they contacted Kerry Stone at the City of Bloomington who suggested helping with the Curbside Cleanup.

"Helping Hands," a group of Ziegler employees and retirees, was formed. In addition to assisting seniors and those with disabilities move refrigerators, dryers and other heavy items from basements to the curbs, volunteers deliver groceries to homebound individuals through the Store to Door and Human Services programs.

Employees mostly volunteer on their own time. But thanks to Ziegler executives, employees also receive paid time for helping out the citizens of Bloomington. The employees give up their lunch hours to help Store to Door and Ziegler pays for any extra volunteer time.

"Ziegler is very supportive of Helping Hands," Eckstrom said. "It means a lot to us to be a member of a corporation that cares about the community where they do business."

Helping Hands is always looking for new opportunities and to achieve the ultimate experience of really connecting with somebody.

"People always ask how it makes us feel when we volunteer," Chellsen said. "We do it because it's the right thing to do and in the end it's all about being with the people we meet."

### VOLUNTEERS STRENGTHEN AND SHAPE BLOOMINGTON

The City works with more than 1,500 volunteers, each contributing an average of 100 hours with an estimated value of \$2.5 million to the community. For volunteer opportunities, call Kerry Stone at 952-563-8737 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Volunteer.



Ziegler employees volunteer with Store to Door.